

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05227 111757Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9562

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB GR

SUBJ: LABOR: HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS ON STRIKE

1. GREEK PHYSICIANS WHO STAFF NATION'S GENERAL HOSPITALS COMMENCED STRIKE JULY 9. STRIKE COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS MADE PROVISION FOR SKELETON MANNING OF ALL HOSPITALS TO INSURE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR CITIZENRY. MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES STATED JULY 10 THAT HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO EFFECT CIVIL MOBILIZATION OF PHYSICIANS SHOULD PROTECTION OF HEALTH OF GREEK PEOPLE DEMAND IT. TO DATE, HE CONTINUED, NEED HAS NOT YET ARISEN FOR SUCH MOBILIZATION ACTION.

2. APPROXIMATELY 4,500 PHYSICIANS AFFECTED BY STRIKE. BASIC ISSUE CONTESTED IS WHETHER DRAFT LEGISLATION RECENTLY INTRODUCED INTO PARLIAMENT BY MINISTER SOCIAL SERVICES SUBSTANTIALLY REFLECTS PRIOR AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED LAST MARCH BETWEEN HIM AND PHYSICIANS AFTER A SIMILAR STRIKE (FEBRUARY 26-27) WAS STAGED BY HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS. PHYSICIANS NOW CLAIMING THAT CURRENT DRAFT

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 05227 111757Z

LEGISLATION FALLS SHORT OF PRIOR AGREEMENTS WHILE

MINISTER STATES THAT PHYSICIANS IN INTERIM PERIOD
HAVE BOTH ALTERED AND ESCALATED THEIR DEMANDS. DEMANDS
OF PHYSICIANS IN LARGE DEGREE RELATE TO ITEMS OF
SALARY, SPECIAL ALLOWANCES, ANNUAL LEAVE, PROMOTIONS,
WORKING CONDITIONS, ETC. AT PRESENT THERE APPEARS TO
BE "STAND-OFF" BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES. NEXT MOEMENT
IN IMPASSE PROBABLY WILL OCCUR EARLY NEXT WEEK WHEN
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE COMMENCES ON DRAFT LEGISLATION.
KUBISCH

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